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The Central Queensland University (CQU) building.

Successful academic audit for ACK attained

KUWAIT: The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) has accomplished a successful audit period conducted by its strategic partner Central Queensland University (CQU). The audit took place virtually from the 8 to November 11, 2021.

The objective of similar audit sessions is to maintain the quality of education and continually improve Colleges offerings and services, continuing to fulfill Kuwait's Public Universities' Council (PUC) requirements and guidelines for institutional accreditation, to ensure the comparability programs and modules between ACK and CQU, and at last to reinforce the partnership between both universities.

The session attended by CQU representatives led by: Alastair Dawson, Vice President Global Development; Priscilla Stevens-Guiney, Director - Office of the Vice President Global Development; Prof Steven Hall, Dean - School of Engineering and Technology; Prof Talal Yusaf, Adjunct Professor - School of Engineering and Technology; Prof Anthony Weber - Deputy Dean (Learning & Teaching) School of Business and Law; Prof Grant Stanley, Vice President - Research; Pavle Jeric, Deputy Director - Online Systems and Future Proofing Digital Services Directorate; Prof Douglas Drury, Head of Aviation.

At the end of the audit, CQU compiled a list of commendations and recommendations for ACK. Among the commendations, ACK was praised for maintaining a high level of enthusiasm and provision of quality education throughout the COVID-19 period, with the auditors noting the College's leadership in teaching and learning developments in working towards the highest quality of support during the pandemic. ACK was also commended on its progress towards building a stronger research culture, and for its commitment towards supporting the well-being of its staff and students.

As for the recommendations, among them were that ACK implements consistent learning and teaching models to assist in its transition back to on-campus face-to-face education, and that the College consider improving its technology platforms and resources to include features such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence. ACK believes in the importance of audit sessions as a higher education institution for its continuous improvement and further develop its educational offerings and training services.

Dr John receives health care quality certification

KUWAIT: ABQAURP is pleased to announce the recent certification of Dr Aysha John, CHCQM. Dr John passed the Health Care Quality and Management (HCQM) Certification Examination on September 22, 2021 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.



Dr Aysha John

Dr John joins fellow Diplomates of ABQAURP who, for over 40 years, have shown their commitment to, and specialized focus on, quality care and patient safety; distinguishing them from their colleagues by becoming HCQM Certified.

HCQM Certification (www.abqaup.org/certification) has always focused on streamlining the delivery of health care while maintaining quality and safety but now positions itself at the forefront of quality care as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) begins to implement its mandates to focus on safety and the continuum of care.

Professionals who have achieved HCQM Certification demonstrate deep commitment to patient safety, health care quality, and effective care, while addressing the need for effectiveness, efficiency, utilization review, safety, and timeliness.

Kuwait to UN session: Peace through ridding world of nuclear weapons

UN chief hails Kuwait's efforts for nukes-free Middle East

NEW YORK: There will be no peace, security, or stability unless the world is rid of nuclear arsenal and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), a senior Kuwaiti diplomat said late Monday. Speaking to the Second Session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Headquarters in New York Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that his country would continue to adopt measures to lessen the usage of such weapons against humanity. He affirmed that Kuwait, as President of the current session, urged countries with influence in the region to take responsibility and join the Treaty of Non-Proliferation Treaty of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) signed in 1995.

Ambassador Otaibi added that Kuwait was against the spread of all kinds of conventional and nuclear weapons of destruction, partaking in all global efforts by the UN and other organizations to halt their spread regionally and internationally. He reiterated calls for Zionists to join the NPT, underlining that the Zionists were the only group in the Middle East who refused to contribute to the region's stability due to the presence of their nuclear arsenal and stockpile.

Arab countries had contribute to the decision in 1995 to have a Middle East clear of WMDs and nuclear arsenal, indicated Ambassador Otaibi, adding that 2010 review conference had ratified a work plan to implement resolutions concerning clearing Middle East from such weapons. The Kuwaiti diplomat expressed sorrow of the lack of determination in regards to clearing the region from nuclear weapons, saying that sides like Zionists specifically continue to thwart any efforts in this regard preventing reviews of the NPT in 2015 to implement the tenets of the agreement. He went on to say that, there was still a determination towards achieving the goal of a nuclear weapons-free Middle East, which involved all facilities being inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to make sure that they were abiding by the NPT and other agreements. He expressed hopes that the current session would provide positive

results in the quest to protect the region from hazardous weapons be it nuclear or other.

Prior to the session, Ambassador Otaibi said that the five-day conference, held at the UN headquarters, aimed to pave the way for turning the Middle East into a region free from nuclear and mass destruction weapons similar to those created in South America, Africa, Southeast Asia, Pacific and Central Asia. Meanwhile, Ambassador Otaibi expressed, on the international day to support the Palestinian people, solidarity with his Palestinian brethren and their quest to establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Lasting peace

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has lauded Kuwait's efforts to prove successful the second session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. "I commend the Presidency of the second session, the State of Kuwait,

for actively engaging participants during the intersessional period to learn from the other nuclear-weapon-free zones and continue moving the process forward," the UN official said at the inaugural session which was held in New York earlier Monday. He also extended warm congratulations to Kuwait's Permanent Representative

Ambassador Otaibi for his election as the President of the five-day conference.

Guterres stressed that establishing Middle East as Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone will help bring lasting peace to the chronically strife-torn region and make the world a safer, more secure place. "States must join forces and seek every opportunity to ease tensions, resolve conflicts and build lasting peace and security. This Conference represents one such initiative and could bring tangible benefits to the Middle East region and beyond," he said. The Conference, which aims to form a legally binding treaty to establish the zone, was first held in November 2019, following a request for such a gathering at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The

Kuwait shows solidarity with Palestinians



Kuwait, EU, international partners discuss women's empowerment solutions

KUWAIT: The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD), the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Kuwait, UNDP, UN Women, Al-Hamra Real Estate Company and the Women's Research and Studies Center at the College of Social Sciences at Kuwait University, supported by Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, convened a high-level event which served as a platform for new private sector commitment to women's economic empowerment.

Topics addressed included Kuwait's path to accelerate gender diversity in the workplace in line with Kuwait's 2035 Vision and its international commitment and collaboration with global partners. The event also addressed the importance of women's full participation in the labor market, as the global economy recovers from the pandemic and businesses pursue more purpose and diversity-driven agendas.

Dr Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development; Dr Cristian Tudor, Ambassador of the European Union to the State of Kuwait and Dr Lubna Alkazi, Director, Women's Research and Studies Center at Kuwait University, gave the opening remarks, whilst Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights, Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided the keynote address. Other speakers included senior government speakers, EU officials, UN experts and private sector leaders who are charting new pathways to accelerate gender equality in their organizations.

Speakers from across Kuwait and the European Union exchanged best practices both from the public and private sector, including Hana Alhajeri, Head of the Higher Council for Women's Affairs; Mr. Stefan Schleuning, Head of Unit, Foreign Policy Instruments at the European Commission; Abrar Al-Habib, Chief Administrative Officer of Al-Hamra Real Estate Co and Hedwige Nuyens, Chairwoman of Women on Boards and CEO of the International Banking Federation.

During the event, 14 new Kuwaiti private sector companies publicly committed to the UN Women's Economic Principles (WEPs), a roadmap for businesses on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. The seven principles highlight the gender dimension of corporate responsibility and are designed to support companies in reviewing and

NBK's Run kit collection centre receives applicants

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) opened a specialized center in Al-Shaheed Park to assist the registered applicants in its "NBK Run" and distribute the assigned T-shirts and numbers. The race kit collection will be open until Friday, 3 December 2021 at Al Shaheed Park Multi-purpose Hall in Phase 1 between 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

NBK Run is marked by a variety of fun, enter-

monitoring existing policies and practices-or establishing new ones-to realize women's empowerment.

Those include the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Kamco Invest, Agility, Tamdeen Group, American University of Kuwait, Aljarida Newspaper, TABCO Foods, Wara Hospital Kuwait, Adlouni and Partners, Mona Abdullah Alarbash Law Firm, Rawd Al Saleheen Bilingual School, Khayal Consultants, ABCK-AM Kuwait, Royal Victoria Medical Center, who joined the thirty Kuwaiti companies who had already signed up to the WEPs. The new signatories expand the WEP community to new sectors, such as the private education and healthcare sectors.

Speaking on initiatives to promote higher gender equality at Al-Hamra Real Estate Co, AlHabib said:



KUWAIT: The participants in a group photo.

"Hosting the event for signing the Women's Empowerment Principles, and high-level dialogue today at our venue was an honor and testament to our goal to collectively create an inclusive corporate culture for everyone. Now, more than ever, we need to fortify our efforts to build resilient economies. With our current best practices in place that will continue to be reinforced, we have also identified several new strategies that will mobilize various resources to educate, strengthen, upskill, and empower the women workforce and our communities to be successful in the long run."

Addressing why women's empowerment matters to business, Nawal Mulla-Hussain, Managing

and health awareness-raising activities. All participants in the race will be eligible to enter the grand draw to win a new Nissan X - TERA car from the strategic partner, Al-Babtain Group. Ooredoo will offer an exclusive chance to all participants to enter the draw on a ticket to watch Paris Saint German (PSG) football match. Ooredoo will also award the top race winners with exclusive prizes.

NBK Run added a 5 Km race in addition to the existing 11 km to increase the completion among participants. The run for the 11 Km distance will start from the Green Island and for the 5 km will start from Souq Sharq on the Gulf Road. The finishing line of the race will be at Shuwaikh Beach Park, parallel to the Gulf Road, next to KPC building.

NBK will reward 12 winners. The top three win-



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Headquarters in New York Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi addresses the Second Session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. —KUNA

Secretary-General noted that since 1967, five nuclear-weapon-free zones have been declared worldwide, including 60 percent of Member States and covering almost all of the southern hemisphere.

Expanding such zones to more regions will strengthen global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation norms. It will also contribute to building a safer world, particularly in the Middle East where concerns over nuclear programs persist, and conflicts and civil wars are causing widespread civilian casualties and suffering, undermining stability and disrupting socioeconomic development. "I reiterate my call upon all parties to exercise restraint and avoid escalation," he said, emphasizing that the return to dialogue for the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Program of Action is an important step.

Further, the perpetrators of chemical attacks must be identified and held accountable. Achieving a nuclear-weapon-free zone will eliminate the possibility of nuclear conflicts in the region and strengthen international bans on chemical and biological weapons, he said. It will also deescalate regional arms races and free up much-needed resources to tackle COVID-19 and climate change, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, he added, calling for strong political will and international community support to transform the vision of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East into a reality. —KUNA

Director of Support Operations at Kamco said: "We are pleased to commit to the WEPs, which are in line with our sustainable development plan, our continuing commitment to empowering women in the workplace and supporting our advocacy of gender equality. Women's empowerment and equality is one of the 17 UNDP's Sustainable Development Goals which is being currently integrated within our business model. Kamco Invest will continue to build on its sustainable development agenda and further develop a sustainable business ecosystem that paves the way for building the aspired modern state."

Stefan Schleuning, Head of Unit, Foreign Policy Instruments, European Commission, stated: "As we move closer towards the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU is putting women at the heart of the recovery. Stronger engagement on gender equality is key to a sustainable global recovery and building fairer, more inclusive, more prosperous societies. Indeed, estimates show that advancing gender equality could add about €11 to

€21 trillion to global GDP by 2025."

Hideko Hadzialic, Resident Representative of UNDP said: "The increase in female employment in Kuwait between 2014 and 2018 was 2.7 times that of males and was higher than males for both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaiti women. Private sector plays a key role by incorporating a gender perspective into companies' overall management system and increasing women's role in decision making in leadership positions." The event, moderated by Bibi Khudari, prominent journalist, reporter and TV presenter, brought together government representatives, diplomatic missions, UN representatives, private sector companies, media and other guests.

ners (for each women and men) in the 11 km race will receive KD 1000, KD 700, KD 500 cash prizes. The top three winners in the 5 km race (for each women and men) will get KD 500, KD 400, KD 300 cash prizes. The bib-number for each participant will contain a step-counting chip to identify the winners' places. The results for NBK Run are supervised by the Event Management Company (SUFFIX).

NBK strongly supports sporting events and encourages various sporting activities as means to promote a healthier and more active lifestyle for members of the community. Throughout the years, NBK also organizes several social awareness programs including educational, environmental, health and many other active initiatives.